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The Advisor

May/June 2006

A York County Newsletter for Professional Horticulturists
And Workers in the Green Industry

2006 Calendar of Events

- May 6 **York County Master Gardener Plant Sale (9AM-12AM)**, 301 Goodwin Neck Road, Yorktown, VA.
- May 9-10 **National Hardware Show and Lawn & Garden World**, Las Vegas, NV. www.nationalhardwareshow.com
- May 11-12 **Fourth Annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference, Awards, & Trade Show**, *Garden in the City & Do-It-Yourself Green Roof*, Boston, MA. <http://greenroofs.org/boston/index.php>
- May 11-17 **2006 World Rose Convention**, Osaka, Japan. www.worldrose-osaka2006.jp/roseinjapan/index.html
- May 12-15 **Joint 2006 American Rhododendron Society and Azalea Society of American Convention**, Rockville, MD. <http://arspvc.org/2006/>
- May 16-17 **Hazard Trees Workshop/Tree Planting & Establishment Workshop**, Columbia, SC. The National Arbor Day Foundation. Approved for ISA and SAF CEU/CFU credits. www.arboday.org/programs/conferences/hazardtrees%2Dtreeplanting/
- May 23-27 **Chelsea Flower Show**, Birmingham, England. www.rhs.org.uk/chelsea/2005/index.asp
- Jun 1 **Tidewater AREC Field Day**, Seedling Diseases/Thrips Tour, Suffolk, VA. Contact: Sean Malone at 757-657-6450 ext. 126 for more information or email SMalone@vt.edu.
- Jun 7-10 **Super Floral Show**, Salt Lake City, UT. www.superfloralshow.com
- Jun 13-14 **International Water Garden & Pond Show**, Rosemont, Chicago, IL. www.watergardenshow.com
- Jun 13-15 **National Lawn & Garden Show**, Rosemont, Chicago, IL. www.nlgshow.com
- Jun 17 **Garden Gala**, Hahn Horticulture Center, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. www.hort.vt.edu/hhg/gardengala2006.html
- Jun 21-25 **ANLA 2006 Retail Roadshow – New England**. www.anla.org/pdf/Roadshow_IL.pdf
- Jun 22-24 **Southeast Greenhouse Conference**, Greenville, SC. www.sgcts.org Contact: jlatime@vt.edu
- Jun 25-28 **Garden Centers of America Summer Tour**, Buffalo, NY. Phone: 888-648-6463
<http://gardencentersofamerica.org/associations/3117/files/retailerssummertour.pdf>
- Jul 8-11 **2006 OFA Short Course and Trade Show**, Columbus, OH. www.ofa.org
- Jul 16-22 **24th Perennial Plant Association Symposium and Trade Show**, Montreal, Québec. <http://www.perennialplant.org/symposium/sym06.htm>
- Jul 21 **6th International Conference on Recirculating Aquaculture**, Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, Roanoke, VA. <http://www.calendar.vt.edu/main.php?view=event&eventid=1139498031766>
- Aug 10-12 **SNA 2006 – World's Showcase of Horticulture**, Atlanta, GA. www.sna.org/tradeshows/index.shtml
- Aug 17 **VNLA Field Day**, Bennett's Creek Nursery's Isle of Wight Farm, Smithfield, VA. Contact: info@vnla.org 800-476-0055
- Sep 26-27 **Virginia Tech Field Day**, Skelton Conference Center, Blacksburg, VA. <http://vaturf.org/calendar.php?do=event&id=68&VESESSID=d59221164fb16d92bd6e0274c4bada9b>
- Oct 19-22 **225th Anniversary: Victory at Yorktown**, 2007 Signature Event, Yorktown, VA. www.jamestown2007.org/se-yorktown225.cfm

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

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490-045

DOLLARS & SENSE

YORK COUNTY MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE \$\$\$\$\$

York County's *Route 17 Property Improvement Grant Program* can provide matching grants up to \$20,000 to qualifying business to improve their properties along George Washington Memorial Highway.

The program began in 2004 with the first round of grants resulting in improvements in: landscaping (13 businesses), signs (21 businesses), site improvements (26 businesses), façade/building improvements (38 businesses) and demolitions (three businesses).

Perhaps you or one of your customers qualifies or there is businesses you can help apply that then becomes your customer. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) of York County administers the program. For information call 757-890-3317 or visit www.yorkcounty.gov/econdev/Rt_17_Grant_Program.htm

SELECTING BUSINESS SITES IN YORK COUNTY

[York County Site Selector](http://www.yorkcountysites.com) allows users to identify available York County commercial property (buildings and/or land). Users can generate site-specific workforce demographics, traffic reports, business analysis reports, and interactive maps. The data is created and displayed using a Geographic Information System (GIS) that combines layers of information in order to better understand comprehensive details about a specific location. This FREE website is provided by York County to enhance economic development and assist the business community in site selection services.

www.yorkcountysites.com



Bolster those sales after Memorial Day. Keep sales flowing with **June is Perennial Gardening Month** publicity. Plants

designated by PPA as Perennial Plant of the Year can be found at: www.perennialplant.org/ppy/ppyindexs.htm

RECOMMENDED ANNUAL FLOWERS

Learn what annuals may or may do well in our area. Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Virginia Beach is an official trial and All-American Display Garden. They have been conducting flower trials for over thirty years and have compiled a list of *Recommended Annual Flowers for the Hampton Roads Area.* Access the list from the Trial Gardens web page at:

www.vaes.org.vt.edu/HRAREC/Trial%20Gardens/TrialGardens.htm

Color pictures of the top ten plant picks from the 2005 and 2004 trials can also be viewed from this page.

Many are also All-American winners.

You can also visit their Arboretum and Display Gardens on Diamond Springs Road, which is open to the public year round at no charge.

www.vaes.org.vt.edu/HRAREC/Projects/gardens.html



Get your free "Virginia Grown" 4x5 ft green industry banner from Virginia Dept of Agriculture and Commerce Services. Contact Kent Lewis, at 840-371-6098,

klewis@vdacs.state.va.us,
<http://virginiagrown.org/VaGrownBanner.htm>

RED, WHITE AND BLUE NATIVE PLANTS

If you want to use native plants in your *Jamestown 2007 America's Anniversary Garden* plantings, the Virginia Native Plant Society has a list of **Red, White and Blue Native Plants** (Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Perennials, and Ornamental Grasses) on their web site www.vnps.org. America's Anniversary Garden: www.ext.vt.edu/americasgarden

IMMIGRATION FOLLOW-UP

- While the U.S. Congress continues to wrestle with the issue of immigration, did you know that the Virginia Senate took a shot also? A bill killed by a Senate committee would have levied a \$10,000 fine on employers who knowingly hired undocumented migrants. The fine would have been added to an existing state law that makes it a misdemeanor to knowingly hire illegal immigrants or fail to try to verify their legal work status.

Source: Daily Press, 02/28/2006

- From The PEW Hispanic Center Fact Sheet, April 13th, *The Labor Force Status of Short-Term Unauthorized Workers.*

- Updated Estimates:** the Center developed estimates of the number of long- and short-term unauthorized migrants employed in various industries and occupations and of their weekly earnings based on data from the March 2005 Current Population Survey (CPS). The estimates show that there are a total of 7.2 million unauthorized workers in the U.S. and more than 2.5 million of them, or 35 percent, arrived between 2000 and 2005. Unauthorized workers as a whole make up nearly 5% of the U.S. labor force. Short-term unauthorized migrants account for just under 2% and are concentrated in a few sectors of the economy. More than half of all short-term unauthorized migrants are employed in two occupational categories: construction (6% of labor force) and services (4% of work force). **Unemployment:** As of March 2005, the employment rate for unauthorized migrants who arrived between 2000 and 2005 was 5.8 percent, compared with 4.1 percent for those who arrived prior to 2000. There were, however, significant differences by gender and by occupation.

- Earnings:** In March 2005, the average weekly earnings for unauthorized males who arrived between 2000 and 2005 was over \$480, while the average was about \$100 more for the unauthorized who arrived before 2000. Legal immigrants earned about twice as much.

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/factsheets/16.pdf>

E.Y.I.**YORKTOWN SNOWFLOWER TREE
HISTORIC TRIANGLE SIGNATURE TREE**

York County, which recognized *chionanthus virginicus* as its official commemoration tree last year, partnered with Jamestown 2007 to announce the adoption of the Yorktown Snowflower Tree as the commemorative Tree of The Historic Triangle. Mark Catesby, English Naturalist (1863-1747), introduced this tree from Virginia to English gardens, where it is now widely planted as an ornamental. In the springtime, it's



covered with fragrant blooms. When fall arrives, its leaves turn a showy yellow. It's accustomed to the vagaries of Peninsula weather, able to withstand hurricane force winds, and tolerate moderate flooding. This native Virginia tree, also known as the Fringe Tree or Old Man's Beard, is available at several local nurseries.

www.yorkcounty.gov/publicinfo/2006-021.pdf



Memories of Phil, the *Amorphophallus titanum* HE'S DONE... KAPUT... EXPENDED... EXHAUSTED...

Thanks so much to *everyone* who visited in person (well over 1,000 folks) or "virtually" via the website. Those were some good times...we miss ye, Phil... until the next stink.

HISTORIC TREES

Would it be great to have a George Washington Sweet Red Buckeye or an Elvis Presley Weeping Willow? You can! These and many other trees from historic sites, homes, and parks can be yours from American Forests, the nation's oldest non-profit conservation group. Visit their retail store to get small plants or seeds at:

www.historictrees.org/store.html

NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN ON NATIONAL REGISTER

Norfolk Botanical Garden is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, according to a National Park Service announcement in December 2005. The Garden was designated for its historic significance as a 1938 WPA project built mostly by African-American women. Norfolk Botanical Garden's rich history began when the City of Norfolk secured a Works Progress Administration grant to clear the tree-filled swampland adjacent to the municipal airport. Through the grant, 200 African-American women and 20 African-American men cleared 25 acres of dense vegetation with pickaxes, hoes and shovels – fighting off bugs and water moccasins. When the land was cleared, the women and men planted four thousand azalea plants, two thousand rhododendron and several thousand miscellaneous shrubs and trees. For more info visit www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**MAC - I.S.A. CERTIFIED ARBORIST EXAMS**

May 3, 2006, Leesburg, VA Extension office, Check in 9:30am
May 18, 2006, Chesapeake VA, Check in 1:00 pm

<http://www.mac-isa.org/certific.htm>

BASIC SOIL SCIENCE WORKSHOP

May 25-26, Charlottesville, VA.

A VA Tech taught intense two-day short course for biologists, geologists, environmental health specialists, land developers, surveyors, contractors, engineers and individuals who want to learn more about soil science. The short course will focus on understanding soil physical, chemical and morphological properties in natural and managed landscapes.

wdaniels@vt.edu

<http://vaturf.org/fm/VTBasicSoilsCourse.pdf>

VNLA RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

August 16, 2006, Suffolk, VA Contact: 1-800-476-0055

VNLA VIRGINIA CERTIFIED HORTICULTURIST EXAM

August (TBA) from 6:00-10:00 PM, Henrico County Government Complex Human Resources Building.

www.vnla.org/Certification/VCH2006ClassesExamInfo.htm#ROANOKE

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION COURSES

Category 3A, 3B, 5A, 6, 10, 60

Jun 15*, Leesburg, Debbie Dillion, 703-771-5838

Jun 15**, Williamsburg, Tom Tracy, 757-464-1004

Jun 22, Norfolk, Susan French, 757-385-4769

Jun 23***, Richmond, C. Bruce Williams 910-313-6785

*+8 less 5A&6; ** less 10; ***less 5A

Category 2, 6, 10, 60

May 8, Charlottesville, Bonnie Ragland, 434-977-1375

ext 3325

Jun 9(less 10), Fredericksburg, James Akerson, 540-999-3496

Category 7A, &B, 10, 60

Jun 22, Norfolk, Susan French, 757-385-4769

For registration or more information contact the phone number listed for each training location.

Complete listing of courses for recertification of Virginia Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicators, to include on-line, computer based, and correspondence courses, can be found at the following VDACS web site:

www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/pending.html

Order Pesticide Applicator Training Manuals by credit card from the VCE Distribution Center at 540-231-1325.

The Advisor Newsletter is prepared by:

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How Green Are We?



2005 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INDEX (ESI)

The ESI benchmarks the ability of nations to protect the environment over the next several decades and is joint production of Yale and Columbia Universities in conjunction with the World Economic Forum and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

The ESI does so by integrating 76 data sets into 21 elements of environmental sustainability tracking natural resource endowments, past and present pollution levels, environmental management efforts, contributions to the protection of global commons, and a society's capacity to improve its environmental performance over time.

These indicators permit comparison across the following five fundamental components of sustainability:

Environmental Systems; Environmental Stresses; Human Vulnerability to Environmental Stresses; Societal Capacity to Respond to Environmental Challenges; and Global Stewardship. The issues reflected in the indicators and the underlying variables were chosen through an extensive review of the environmental literature, assessment of available data, rigorous analysis, and broad-based consultation with policymakers, scientists, and indicator experts.

The ESI provides a powerful environmental decision making tool tracking national environmental performance and facilitating comparative policy analysis. Higher ESI scores suggest better environmental stewardship.

The United States places 45th in the rankings. This high-middle ranking, just behind Armenia (44) and ahead of the United Kingdom (46), reflects top-tier performance on issues such as water quality and environmental protection capacity. Bottom-rung results on other issues, such as waste generation and greenhouse gas emissions, bring down the overall U.S. standing.

The five highest-ranking countries are Finland, Norway, Uruguay, Sweden, and Iceland—all countries that have substantial natural resource endowments, low population density, and have managed the challenges of development with some success. Canada is sixth.

The lowest ranking countries are North Korea, Iraq, Taiwan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. These countries face numerous issues, both natural and manmade, and have not managed their policy choices well.

The full report is available for download online at www.yale.edu/esi

ESI – GDP RELATIONSHIP

At every level of development some countries handle their pollution control and natural resource management issues better than others. Countries above the regression line show results that exceed income-based expectations;

those below the line are underperforming given their level of development. The top five correlations all reflect elements of governance, including variables related to domestic political structure, regulatory effectiveness, and engagement in global-scale environmental efforts. Although these results do not prove a causal relationship, they suggest that the recent policy emphasis placed on good governance may be justified.

CLUSTER ANALYSIS

ESI CHARACTERISTIC BASED COUNTRY GROUPINGS



The ESI offers a mechanism for establishing “peer groups” of countries for the purpose of benchmarking environmental performance. The cluster analysis provides a statistically derived set of seven groupings that links countries based on their environmental characteristics. The clusters facilitate comparative analysis that helps to highlight leaders and laggards on an issue-by-issue basis and permits countries to gauge relative performance and identify best practices.

